ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

CONDENSED RULES.—By J. J. Roberts.

As possibly a great number of the spectators are not conversant with the Rules of the Game, a few explanations may not be considered out of place, and may perhaps prove of some little guide.

To Hockey players one can say that the Association Rules have as near as possible been adopted by "Hockeyites."

To Rugby enthusiasts, what appears to be a breach is the passing forward of the ball. A player is never off-side in Association Football if he is behind the ball, or if he has three of his opponents between him and his opponents' goal when the ball was last played by a partner, or, if the ball was last played by an opponent. Combination, on account of passing forward, being allowed, is generally shown mostly by the forward rank, though in first-class matches it is not unusual to see the ball being passed from a full-back to a half, and from a half to a forward.

GOAL.

Whenever a goal is scored, the side the goal is scored against recommences the game by a kick-off from the centre of the field, exactly in the same manner as at the very commencement of the game.

THROW IN FROM THE LINE.

When a player plays the ball into touch, along either of the touch lines, the opposing side is granted a throw in, in any direction.

CORNER KICKS.

If the ball is kicked over the goal line (but not through goal) by the defending side, a corner kick is granted the attacking side. These kicks are taken within one yard of the corner flag.

GOAL KICK.

If the ball is kicked over the goal line (not through goal) by the attacking side, a goal kick is granted to the defending side. These kicks are taken within six yards of the goal posts.

A goal (if legitimate) is scored when the ball passes under the cross-bar and between the uprights, and is the only point counted.

Only the goal-keeper is allowed to handle the ball. Should any other player wilfully touch the ball by any portion of his hand or arm, or trip, charge, etc., an opponent, a free kick is granted the opposing side, at the spot where the infringement took place.

Should this breach occur within eighteen yards of the culprit's own goal, the opposing side is granted a penalty kick, which is taken within twelve yards of the goal. All players, excepting the goal-keeper and the player taking the penalty kick, must stand outside the penalty area until after the kick has been taken.

A goal can be scored direct from a penalty kick, or from a free kick given for tripping, kicking, jumping at an opponent, etc.

In the case of corner kicks, goal kicks, free kicks for off-side carrying the ball by goal-keeper, etc., the ball must be played by a second player before a goal can be scored.

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